

The students of South Fork School heard and met that challenge. I recently received a check of \$533.00, made out to America's Fund for Afghan Children—that's more than one dollar for each student in South Fork, and more than our President requested.

The students, parents, faculty, and members of the Kincaid community should be recognized for this fine effort. The terrorists believed they could accomplish their goals with the murder of American innocents; but the American citizens have responded with aid to the innocents of Afghanistan. Nothing else could better show how utterly Al Qaeda has failed.

Mr. Speaker, as President Bush said in his announcement of the Fund for Afghan Children, "One of the truest weapons that we have against terrorism is to show the world the true strength of character of the American people." The children of South Fork have shown that character, and they deserve our thanks. May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.

HONORING ALBANIAN FLAG DAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the Albanian American community in celebrating the 89th anniversary of Albanian Flag Day which symbolizes Albania's independence.

On November 28, 1912 Albanian declared its independence by raising its flag in the coastal town of Vlora. Since that glorious day, Albania has endured many hardships but has managed to persevere. The conflict that occurred in Kosova only a short time ago tested Albania and its people. Albania and its proud citizens are entering into a new era of political, social, and cultural growth. They possess a focused vision of their future and will do all they feel is necessary to ensure prosperity.

The United States relationship with Albania is strong and growing stronger. This was evident when Albania pledged its support to us in the wake of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Today, the United States is enriched by the many Albanian Americans living here. They have made major contributions to nearly every facet of American society. The Albanian community adds to the wonderfully diverse American culture by sharing with us their customs and beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, I join the people of Albania, those of Albanian ancestry around the world and Albanian Americans in celebrating Albanian Flag Day. I salute all of them for the tremendous contributions to freedom and human dignity which they have made.

HONORING DERAN KOLIGIAN AS AGRICULTURIST OF THE YEAR

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deran Koligian on the occasion

of his recognition by the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce as the Agriculturist of the Year.

Mr. Koligian serves Fresno County's first district on the Board of Supervisors and was recently elected to serve as the Board's chairman for 2001. In addition to being a County Supervisor, he also serves on a myriad of commissions including the Economic Development Commission, Central Valley Project Authority Advisory Committee, Pleasant Valley Habitat Plan Board of Directors and Steering Committee, Southeast Regional Solid Waste Commission, and Water Resources Management Executive Committee.

Supervisor Koligian, born and raised in Fresno, is an ardent supporter of agriculture in the largest agricultural producing county in the nation. He has blended his dedication to agriculture and public service in a most beneficial and effective manner. Fresno County has been enriched by his commitment to agriculture and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Deran Koligian as the 2001 Agriculturist of the Year. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Koligian and wishing him many more years of continued success.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE CONFERENCE REPORT FOR H.R. 3150

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate my colleagues, especially the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), on reaching an aviation security agreement that will provide unprecedented protection to our Nation's passengers and airways.

As we enter the holiday season, it is essential that the flying public feel confident about air travel, and today's agreement will restore full faith in flying. Aviation security is of particular concern in Rhode Island, where our State airport is located in a populated urban area. We must safeguard this facility and all of our Nation's airports from potential threats, not only for the benefit of passengers and workers, but also to allay the fears of people in neighboring homes and businesses. H.R. 3150's provision requiring all checked baggage to be screened by explosive-detection devices is an important step to enhance security and guarantee peace of mind to the traveling public.

H.R. 3150 will also provide a well-timed and much needed boost to the travel and tourism sector, which is the second largest industry in the State of Rhode Island. I have heard the concerns of airline employees and passengers, hotel workers, rental car companies, travel agents, and restaurant owners. We all agree that Congress must restore confidence in air travel in order to boost our nation's flagging economy.

Finally, this legislation includes a provision to federalize airport security, which is one of the most important commitments we can make to air travelers. Countless constituents have contacted me in support of a federal aviation screening force, and I am pleased that H.R. 3150 reflects the will of the American people.

Today's bipartisan legislation is an example of good government at work, and I urge my colleagues to vote for final passage.

IN TRIBUTE TO REV. VERNON MCGOWEN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of the chair and my colleagues a distinguished minister from the city of Neptune, NJ, Rev. Vernon McGowen.

Reverend McGowen has served as the minister of the Martin Luther King Jr. Presbyterian Church in Neptune for the past 25 years. On Sunday, November 18, 2001, his church will recognize his illustrious career and dedication to the Neptune and Asbury Park communities.

A Houston native, McGowen moved to New Jersey to attend the Princeton Theological Seminary where he earned his masters of Divinity Degree. While at Princeton, through the urging of a professor and mentor, he started preaching at Martin King Jr. Presbyterian Church. His dedication and compassion were evident after only 2 years of service, at which time the Church invited him to become the church's permanent pastor.

Throughout his tenure as pastor, he has been an outspoken advocate for people who normally have no way of making themselves heard. As a highly regarded leader in the black community, he has dealt with issues ranging from teenage pregnancy to the hiring of more blacks in county offices. Over the years, he has been recognized as a leading advocate of judicial reform and encouraging greater opportunities for blacks in the legal system. In short, parishioners of his church not only found a religious figure, but a civil rights leader.

Reverend McGowen practices what he preaches, using his talents to reach out to the segments of the community that need him the most. Through his tireless efforts, he helped Lawrence Lawson gain the appointment of assignment judge, the first black person to achieve this esteemed position.

Through his ministry he spreads the word of God and provides spiritual leadership, while simultaneously, he fights to improve the social well-being of all. Now entering his 25th year of service, I would like to congratulate Rev. Vernon McGowen on this momentous occasion.

MENTAL HEALTH AND THE WORLD TRADE CENTER CRISIS: THE IMPACT ON NEW YORK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on October 2, 2001, I introduced H.R. 2992, the Mental Health Parity Enhancement Act of 2001. Clearly, we all have come to understand mental health is critical to the health and well being of our country and all Americans. I rise today to submit compelling, timely remarks